Stage I—Coal India headquarters will be connected with headquarters of subsidiary companies and the Department of Coal.

Stage II—Important areas and projects will be connected with respective subsidiary company headquarters.

Stage III—Other areas, washeries, workshops and rescue stations will be connected with subsidiary company headquarters.

Stage IV—Communication links will be established between area offices and mine units.

Revival of M/s. Nirlon Synthetics and Fibres Limited

692. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for the revival of M/s. Nirlon Synthetics and Fibres Limited ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) and (b) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) is studying the measures for rehabilitation of M/s. Nirlon Synthetics & Fibres Limited.

Compensation to Bhopal gas tragedy victims

693. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state the steps being taken by the Central Government towards payment of interim and final compensation to the Bhopal Gas tragedy victims ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): The compensation amount for the Bhopal Gas victims has not yet been finally decided as the Government has filed an Affidavit in the Supreme Court supporting the petitioners for review of its earlier Settlement Order dated 14th/15th February, 1989. The matter is sub-judice.

However, the Supreme Court earlier directed payment of Interim Relief at specified rates to the specific categories of victims and these payments are accordingly being made since May, 1989 by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh. The expenditure incurred on this account is being reimbursed by the Central Government. In addition, the Government has also decided to pay an interim relief of Rs. 200/- per month per person for a period of 3 years to all the residents in the 36 severely affected municipal wards in Bhopal, at the time of disaster. The payment will be made to the minors and adults at the same rate through the scheduled Nationalised/Cooperative Banks. The amount of interim relief will be adjusted against the individual compensation to be finally determined. The money is being released to the Banks shortly and payment will start through the said Banks at the earliest.

Import of natural gas

694. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import natural gas; and

(b) if so, what are the particulars of such intended import ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) The feasibility of import of liquified natural gas (LNG) would have to be examined in the light of expected availability of natural gas in the country and the demand for the same from various sectors, as well as the economics of utilisation of the imported gas *viz-a-viz* other energy alternatives.

Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) have been asked to examine the feasibility of import of LNG. The feasibility study is still awaited.

Tehri Dam Project

695. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to undertake a comprehensive review of Tehri Dam Project in view of the objections raised by Shri Sunderlal Bahuguna an eminent environmentalist, and also from other quarters to avoid considerable depredation of forests owing to the construction of this Dam;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what is the extent of forests likely to be destroyed due to the construction of this Dam and what steps are being taken to maintain the ecological balance of the area ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) The Government had, in November, 1986, after taking into account all problems of rehabilitation, compensatory afforestation, catchment area treatment etc., decided to implement the Tehri Hydro Power Project Complex (2400 MW), as a joint venture of the Government of India and the Government of a Uttar Pradesh and to seek Soviet technical and financial assistance for the same. There has been no change in this decision.

(c) The Tehri Hydro Power Project Complex has been accorded permission by the Ministry of Environment & Forests under the Forest Conservation Act (1980) for diversion of 2582.9 hectares of forest land for construction of Tehri Dam. The project authorities have drawn up plans for compensatory afforestation for 4595 hectares of land, out of which 1307 hectares have been afforested. In addition, detailed catchment area treatment plan for 36,000 hectares has been drawn up for the Tehri Dam catchment, which includes, *inter-alia* plans for Afforestation, Animal Husbandry, Soil Conservation, Horticulture and other peripheral activities. An estimated amount of Rs. 351 crores would be spent on the above activities, inclusive of rehabilitation.

Prices of Betamethasone

696. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry constituted a team to review the prices of Betamethasone and its salts;

(b) if so, what are the names of the members of the team along with their designations;

(c) whether Government have studied the report of the team which recommended revision in prices;

(d) what is the date from which revised prices are applicable;

(e) what is the amount assessed against the company, yearwise, over-